

# House Approves \$10.3 Million in Childers' Defense Appropriations Requests

## House Approves \$10.3 Million in Childers' Defense Appropriations Requests

July 30, 2009

Washington, DC - Today, the U.S. House of Representatives approved \$10.3 million in appropriations requests submitted by Congressman Travis Childers (D-MS) last night to benefit important defense projects in Mississippi's First Congressional District. Through its passage of the Defense Appropriations bill, the House allocated funding for four projects to improve the health, safety, and readiness of our armed forces, and to support defense jobs in North Mississippi.

"The honorable men and women who serve in our armed forces deserve top-notch equipment that ensures both their safety and ability to do their job," said Congressman Childers. "Today's legislation will provide the funding and resources needed to research and develop this equipment, while also providing support for defense jobs in Mississippi. I will continue to do everything I can to see that this funding is included in the final legislation and ensure that North Mississippi gets its fair share."

"MSU appreciates the Congressional support for our project, which is developing and deploying unattended ground sensors to aid in the global war on terror. The outcome of this research will provide our special operations warfighters with total, reliable and up-to-the-minute situational awareness and will significantly reduce the time our soldiers are exposed to hostile situations," said Mississippi State University President Mark Keenum.

Below are descriptions of the funding requests approved by the House:

- \$4,000,000 - Army Center of Excellence in Acoustics, National Center for Physical Acoustics, University of Mississippi. The ongoing conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan, and urban operations in particular, have highlighted the value of acoustic sensors to alert and assist U.S. forces to identify and engage unfriendly combatants. The Army Center of Excellence in Acoustics (ACoEA), a cooperative partnership of the U.S. Army Armament Research and development Center (ARDEC) at Picatinny Arsenal and the University of Mississippi's National Center for Physical Acoustics, provides the U. S. Army with the latest in acoustics technology to support Army missions. The ACoEA spans the research and development spectrum from basic research that underpins numerous technologies, to advanced research directed at resolving specific Army needs, to development programs providing systems to deployed forces.

- \$2,800,000 - Infectious and Airborne Pathogen Reduction, Luvata, Grenada, MS. Mil-Copper and its alloys possess an intrinsic capability to quickly inactivate common disease-causing bacteria that thrive in hospital settings on touch surfaces/ medical units as well as fungal (mold) growth in air-handling systems. This program completes the research, design testing and evaluation initiated through the Copper Antimicrobial Research Program and the Copper Air Quality Program. Copper is now registered by the EPA to kill pathogens. The funding will support the research programs with an objective to evaluate improvements to infections through use of antimicrobial copper in medical units and HVAC systems in military units - tanks, VA hospitals, and barracks.

- \$1,500,000 - SAVIOR (Surveillance Augmentation Vehicle) - Insertable on Request, General Atomics, Tupelo, MS. This project completes a production ready system that is a rapidly deployable ultra-high-resolution sensor/analysis and command & control vehicle yielding human target detection, recognition, and location in a 4 km diameter circle giving unprecedented levels of situational awareness for U.S. military operations.

- \$2,000,000 - Advanced, Long Endurance Unattended Ground Sensor Technologies, Mississippi State University. Mississippi State University (MSU) proposes to conduct research and development of advanced, low power unattended ground sensor (UGS) technologies that will provide the special operations warfighter with total, reliable and up-to-the minute situational awareness. The proposed program will support ongoing research and development efforts with the U.S. Special Operations Command (USSOCOM) and their global war on terrorism. Specifically, the follow-on program will continue the research and development of small, low power UGS technologies that support critical USSOCOM reconnaissance and surveillance missions by providing robust: (1) target detection, imaging, tagging and tracking; (2) high bandwidth, covert communication of data, voice and video; and (3) data/information exfiltration via satellite communications (SATCOM) for display using advanced visualization technologies. Current prototypes developed under the existing program have demonstrated critical, new capabilities for USSOCOM for generating and delivering actionable intelligence from remote areas of interest to analysts and commanders worldwide in near real-time - ultimately allowing special operations forces (SOF) to think and react more quickly than the adversary.

A pro-gun, pro-life Mississippian, Congressman Travis Childers (D-MS) represents the First Congressional District in North Mississippi. He is a member of the fiscally conservative Blue Dog Coalition and serves on the House Agriculture and Financial Services Committee. Congressman Childers co-chairs the reestablished bipartisan Congressional Rural Caucus and was appointed to the bipartisan Second Amendment Task Force. For more information, visit <http://www.childers.house.gov/>.

# # #